



Box 1134, New London, Connecticut 06320 (860) 442-0003

February 18, 2009

Dear Planning and Development Committee Chairs and Members:

I am writing on behalf of New London Landmarks, the historical preservationist organization in New London, to provide support for land value taxation.

Specifically we are offering support for bills: PSB 379 & PSB 392. As an organization dedicated to the preservation of our historical landmarks, open space, and dense walkable city landscapes, land value taxation provides the best known approach to assuring our structures do not disappear due to blight and decay.

New London has, like many cities, seen whole neighborhoods disappear due to blight caused by the lack of necessary maintenance which became costly due to the current tax structure on improvements. Land value tax would reverse this situation.

Land value tax creates the kind of incentive that will keep our city whole and vibrant. As the executive director of Landmarks, it is absolutely essential to save the irreplaceable structures left to us by our forbearers.

By simply shifting the property tax away from improvements to land, cities will have a tax that encourages historical preservation.

Please pass this option for local city municipalities. It will not cost the State a cent and will, as it has shown elsewhere, have a powerful positive impact on our local economy and the reuse of priceless structures.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Sandra Kersten Chalk
Executive Director, New London Landmarks



A non-profit corporation to promote the preservation and development of the entire urban environment of New London, Connecticut, including significant individual structures, streetscapes, neighborhoods and open spaces.